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Governor Signs Alzheimer's, Dementia, and Adult Guardianship Legislation into Law

Madison – Today, Assembly Bill 629, authored by Rep. Ken Skowronski (R-Franklin) and Sen. Terry Moulton (R-Chippewa Falls), was signed into law by Governor Walker.

“When I talk about this particular bill, I mention that this is something that most people maybe haven’t thought very much about because, understandably, court jurisdiction for guardianships of adults isn’t usually at the top of mind for most people unless they have recently experienced some difficulties with a friend or family member,” stated Skowronski. “However, we ourselves, or perhaps someone close to us, may have to work through these challenges at some point in our lives, and we hope this legislation will make that process a little easier.”

AB 629 will assist people with Alzheimer’s disease and dementia whom may need the assistance of a court-appointed guardian who can make legal, economic, and personal well-being decisions for the individual. This legislation allows Wisconsin courts to communicate with other courts when a jurisdictional issue arises. Differences between states’ adult guardianship laws and limited communication between courts and states can create barriers to addressing end of life issues. Allowing for more uniformity in adult guardianship in Wisconsin will simplify the process for resolving these issues, will allow cases to be settled more quickly, and will provide more predictable outcomes.

Assembly Bill 632, authored by Rep. Mike Rohrkaste (R-Neenah) and Sen. Terry Moulton (R-Chippewa Falls), was also signed into law by the Governor today.

“Working to draft these pieces of legislation with organizations such as the Alzheimer’s Association and AARP was significant,” said Rep. Skowronski. “I was honored to co-sponsor and work with Rep. Rohrkaste and others on putting together this legislation, and to have had the chance to work with such a valuable and essential community on both bills.”

AB 632 will allow DHS to distribute up to \$500,000 in grants to community programs across the state to raise awareness for Alzheimer’s and dementia resources.

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The 82nd Assembly District is located within Milwaukee County.